

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103112

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DACCA, THE HAGUE,
ISLAMABAD, BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, MAY 28, FROM NEW DELHI
RPTD TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 06202

E. O. 11652: GDSTAGS: PFOR, IN, BG, PK

SUBJECT: INDO- BANGLADESH TALKS ON PAKISTANI ATTITUDE; NEXT STEPS

SUMMARY: INDIANS CONTINUE TO TELL US THEY ARE PUZZLED OVER WHAT
THEY SEE AS INCONSISTENT PAKISTANI MOVES REGARDING THE APRIL 17
PORPOSALS. BUT THEY AND BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES BELIEVE THAT
IN THEMSELVES THESE MOVES DO NOT BAR POSSIBILITY OF TALKS WITH
PAKISTAN. THE INDIANS ARE NOW PREPARING A NEW LETTER TO AZIZ
AHMED WHICH IS LIKELY TO PROMPT A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES
BUT TO STOP SHORT OF ACCEPTING EARLY TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES SAID
VERY LITTLE PUBLICLY ABOUT THEIR MAY 21-23 TALKS IN DELHI. THERE
WAS NO STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE. BACKGROUNDEERS POINTED UP SUR-
PRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER PAKISTANI MANEUVERS AND COMPLETE
INDO- BANGLADESH AGREEMENT ON STRATEGY. THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY
PUBLIC COMMENT WAS A HARD STATEMENT BY BANGLADESH FOREIGN
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SECRETARY KARIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TALKS THAT THE TRIALS WOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY JOINT SECRETARY FOR PAKISTAN CHIB TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSEL ON MAY 26 THAT THE INDIANS SAW POSITIVE

ELEMENTS IN THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM AZIZ AHMED MAY 16 PARTICULARLY THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT IOS' S, BENGALIEE AND PAKISTANI DETAINEES WERE ALL HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED TOGETHER. BUT THEY WERE PUZZLED OVER PAKISTANI TACTICS. THE INDIANS HAD RECEIVED A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION FROM PAKISTAN ON MAY 11, A VERY TOUGH AIDE MEMOIR DEALING WITH A RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING THE POW' S, BENGALIEES, AND BIHARIS. ACCORDING TO CHIB THE INDIANS DID NOT KNOW WHICH MESSAGE REPRESENTED PAKISTAN' S CURRENT ATTITUDE.

3. CHIB SAID THE PAKISTANI APPORACH TO THE ICAO ON OVERFLIGHTS WAS A REVERSAL OF AN ORIGINAL PAKISTANI SUGGESTION, AND INDIAN AGREEMENT, THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE RESUMED IN THE ICAO DOR THE TIME BEING. MOREOVER, THE ARREST OF THE BENGALIEES WAS CLEARLY A RETALIATORY MOVE AND WAS IRRITATING TO BANGLADESH.

4. AS FOR THE PAKISTANI APPEAL TO THE ICJ, SHIB SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME PRESSURE IN THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW THE FRENCH AND ICELA
N-

DIC PRECEDENTS: SIMPLY DENY ICJ JURISDICTION AND REFUSE TO DISCUSS IT. THE INDIANS, HOWEVER, HAD DECIDED TO ARGUE THE CASE, HOPED THE ICJ WOULD EVALUATE ITS MERITS, AND NOW BELIEVED THEY HAD ASTRONG POSITION. (ATTORNEY GENERAL NIREN DE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY LEGAL ADVISOR JAGOTA HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE HAGUE, THE ICJ IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN HEARINGS ON THE PAKISTANI PETITION MAY 29).

5. CHIB CONCLUDED THAT INDIA DOES NOT SEE ANY OF THE RECENT PAKISTANI MOVES IN AND OF THEMSELVES AS BARRING TALKS WITH PAKISTAN. THE BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES HAD CONCURRED IN THIS. THE INDIANS WERE NOW PREPARING A NEW LETTER TO AZIZ AHMED WHICH CHIB THOUGHT WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN AZIZ AHMED' S MAY 16 MESSAGE RATHER THAN THE MAY 11 " NEGATIVE" LINE.

6. COMMENT: WE CONCLUDE FROM CHIB' S REMARKS THAT THE
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INDIAN RESPONSE IS LIKELY TO PROMOTE A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BUT WILL STOP WELL SHORT OF ACCEPTING EARLY TALKS

WITH PAKISTON.
MOYNIHAN

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PUOTE. RUSH

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